SPEECH OF MR. A. WAKEMAN, OF NEW YORK. ON THE TARIFF QUESTION.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 16, 1857.

for me in the short space of time allowed me to enter at any extent into the investigation of this subject. I feel in it, that I enter on its discussion with a deep sense of my inability to do it justice. No individual acc quainted with the history of the country, with its vast and diver-sified resources, and with the fact that our manufacturing interests exceed \$1,400,000,000, our agricultural interests over \$1,200,000,000, and our commercial and maritime interests unsurpassed, except by one nation on the globe, and at the same time reflects that all this is based upon and represented in the business operations of the country by a limited amount of precious metals, can avoid feeling that this is the most important question to which an American Congress can at this time address

Before I proceed, Mr. Chairman, to state the few simple propositions which will control my hetion and the votes that I shall be called upon to give on this subject I desire to invite members to reflect on the absolute necessity of a harmonious action on this bill, and on the production of some final result which will reduce the revenue. You all know that all demands of the Government are required to be paid in specie or its equivalent. Your independent treasury system calls on all the officers of the Government to receive nothing in payment except that which is equivalent to or is in fact the precious metals. All your duties on imports, therefore, are to be paid in this manner; and when the money is once placed by virtue of that act in your Treasury it is locked up without the possibility of escape, except by virtue of an act of Congress, either existing or to be enacted. The consequence is that if you exact from your constituents a larger amount than you disburse you effectually withdraw from the business operations of the country the difference between that amount and the amount collected.

Under the present revenue system you have gone on largely exacting from the people, compelling them to pay a heavy and burdensome tax, and at the same time disbursing much less than the sum received. In 1850 this difference in favor of the Treasury was some \$6,000,000; and the amount has continued to increase from that period to the present year, until it now exceeds \$22,000,000, exacted from the hard earnings of the people by way of the nurses made arrangements for that purpose, some of taxes upon imports over and above what is required and | the ladies taking an active share in that what is actually disbursed by the Government. At the She found the hospitals without any trained cooks, and present day, in the city which I have the honor in part to she established a private kitchen, in which food fitted represent, there is locked in your subtreasury over for those who were most reduced was prepared, and I in all the vaults of all the banks of our city put together, and on which is based all the circulation and business of that great metropolis of the country. You have now in your various subtreasuries scattered throughout the country over \$24,000,000 tied up, and in effect practi-habitable, and the repairs were commenced; but the dead to all the business operations of the country. These financial relations between the Government and the officer who had charge of the work could not procure the people, Mr. Chairman, may not seem to affect us se- the requisite funds. She advanced them from her own riously at this moment; but when you reflect that we have one thousand three hundred and ninety-eight chartered banks scattered throughout the United States, with wounded sufficient to fill that wing, and for whom there a circulation of \$195,000,000 and a capital of \$344,000,-000; and add to this a capital of \$118,000,000 represented by individual bankers, making a total bank capital of \$462,000,000, sustaining a deposit account of \$250,000,- to provide the requisite furniture. She purchased it 000, and with a line of discounts from one to ninety days, at her own cost and furnished the wards, but the amount running up to \$700,000,000; and when in conjunction has since been repaid. I mention these things, and I is carried on with only \$70,000,000 of the precious metals as the basis, (\$60,000,000 of which is in the hands am sure, have ever heard or will ever hear of them from chartered banks and \$10,000,000 in the hands of her. individual bankers,) the necessity for immediate action appears absolute. And the thought that the diversity of the sick and wounded which are known to the whole sentiment and interest which exists among us may prevent unity of action should make us all deeply anxious as to the condition in which our country may be placed. It is estimated that in less than eighteen months the amount of precious metals withdrawn from the business operations of the country will exceed \$50,000,000. Now. submit to all eandid gentlemen whether, if these facts be so, we can sit here quietly and allow the time of this session to run away without making some extraordinary, some effectual effort to stay this unnecessary influx of the precious metals from the hands of the people into the coffers of the Treasury? I think, Mr. Chairman, the Committee of Ways and

Means are entitled to the hearty thanks of this House and of the whole country for their unwearied labors and pertinacious attempts to bring this subject to the atten-Sir, if we leave these halls without some successful effort to bring about a reduction of our constantly increasing revenue, no man can foretell the iences which must follow. We have had financial convulsions, which have not only shaken the great metropolis, but the whole country to its very centre; and, if we do not wish those scenes re-enacted with a tenfold force, let us address ourselves like statesmen to an intelligent and thorough investigation of the matter before us, with a hearty determination to come to some favorable and harmonious result

Mr. Chairman, I will now proceed to state the several propositions which will guide me in the performance of

my duties upon this most difficult question First. I lay down this proposition as fundamental, and ever to be borne in mind in the performance of this as well as all our legislative duties, to wit : that the great interests of the United States are united and inseparable; that agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and na vigation will flourish together or languish together; and that all legislation is dangerous which proposes to bene-fit one of these without looking to the consequences which may befall the others. To this proposition we all agree. But when we at

tempt to apply it to individual cases serious difficulties arise. We do not seem to reflect that this country is of the most diversified character, not only in extent, but in population, and in almost every interest that can be conceived. These various interests have their representatives upon this floor; and each seeks, without regard to furnishes six or seven millions of bushels of salt per annum. The duty upon salt is twenty per cent. Ought that interest to induce the representatives of that State to entirely disregard, in reference to the same subjectmatter, the interests of twenty-seven millions of people? Should this vast population be heavily taxed upon all the talists engaged in that manufacture? Every body will at once see that such a course would be unfair and utterly

Again, look at the sugar interest of Louisiana. There are thirteen or fourteen hundred planters engaged in the production and manufacture of sugar in that State. This being an article of universal consumption, should the whole people of the United States be heavily taxed upon all the sugar they consume for the benefit of those thirteen or fourteen hundred sugar planters? Will the representatives of that or any other State upon this floor be justified, as intelligent and just statesmen, in disregarding the interests of millions for the benefit of a few hundred may be permitted, without disparagement to others, to dreds? Ought we not to look to the interests and wants of all the people of the United States rather than confine our own countrywomen. attention and benefits to a particular district or class of individuals? When members take their seats upon this floor, they do not do so as the representatives of any particular section or interest; their constituents, in the full sense of the term, are not confined to any particular district, but are limited only by the confines of the Republic. We are the servants of the whole people, and our compensation is derived, not from our immediate constituents, but from the people's Treasury; and the whole people and all their interests are entitled to be justly and fairly considered in all our legislative enactments.

Mr. Chairman, having urged that the unity of all our great interests may ever be kept in view, I now proceed to the consideration of the second proposition, to wit: That all extreme legislation in the reduction of duties npon imports which come in competition with articles of domestic growth or manufacture should be avoided.

It would seem that we should all at once subscribe to the justice and fairness of this proposition. From the foundation of the Government duties upon imports have been levied, directly or indirectly, for the protection and encouragement of domestic industry. Interests at one time small and insignificant have, under the fostering care of the Government, become of great national im-portance. For example: the iron interest of the nation has become so developed as to afford a production equal to three-fourths of the entire consumption of the country.

This interest has been chiefly developed under the tariff of 1842 and 1846—the latter providing a duty of thirty

On Friday Miss F. per cent. ad valorem.

Now, I submit that to make iron free of duty, or to Millions upon millions of dollars are invested in the production and manufacture of this article, and to cease incidentally to protect it at this time would be to consign it to destruction. The same may be said of other great interests which have, by the fostering care

Mr. Chairman, I now proceed to state my third prope-sition, to wit: That sound policy requires that we should produce what the territory of our country will produce most cheaply, and receive from other countries what we

cannot raise except at too great an expense.

The persistent violation of this principle has cost most nations millions of treasure. Great Britain, in her attempt to produce cotton both at home and in her India The House being in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and having under consideration the bill to reduce the duty on imports, and for other purposes—

Mr. WAKEMAN said: Mr. Chairman, it is impossible

tempt to produce cotton both at home and in her ladia possessions, has expended millions of money. She has disregarded this principle in her attempt to produce her own hemp, which she has now wisely abandoned. France has shown her disregard of this principle in her endeavors to raise sugar and cotton upon her soil and in a climate unsulted to both; and we have shown the same folly in attempting to produce raw silks and other arti-

so impressed with its importance, with the difficulties that surround it, with the diversity of interests involved the debate upon the bill having arrived; but Mr. WAKE-MAN was permitted to state his other propositions, which tive," nor to the many journals by which your article

Fourth. That where it has been demonstrated by long experience of many years that a given article, under the protection of high duties, cannot be produced except at heavy expense and in limited quantities, alto-gether inadequate to domestic consumption, sound policy requires that the duty upon that article should be gradually withdrawn, especially if it is an article of prime

That, inasmuch as the support of the Govern ment is derived from duties upon imports, it is sound policy, in the imposition of those duties, to discriminate in favor of our own manufactures and against the pauper labor of Europe.

Sixth. That Great Britain, having made free the raw material used in her manufactures, sound policy requires that we should admit the same raw materials used in our manufactures, free of duty, when it can be done consistent with vested interests.]

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.

At the Scotch Crimean banquet at Edinburgh Sin JOHN McNEILL, who was one of the Government commissioners sent to the seat of war during the winter to inspect the condition of the army, thus spoke of the services of Miss Nightingale:

"Though I am unable to tell you who was responsible for leaving the sick in that wretched condition, I am able to tell you who rescued them from it—Florence Night-[Prolonged applause.] Except the aid receivingale. ed from the Times fund, she provided, at her own expense, linen for the numerous patients, which could not have cost less than £2,000 or £3,000. [Applause.] She found the hospitals unprovided with any establishment for washing the linen, and with the aid of the ladies and 500,000 of the precious metals, more than we have have no doubt contributed to save the life of many a brave man. [Cheers.]

"Foreseeing that the accommodation would be insuffiworkmen soon struck because they were unpaid, and was no other accommodation, arrived from the Crimea at her own cost and furnished the wards, but the amount ith these facts you know that all this immense business | might tell you of many more, because many of you may not know or may not remember them, and very few,

> "Rut it is needless to dwell further upon services of world: which have redounded to the honor of the nation; which have made her name dear to the army and the country, and which secure to her a place in the history of our times as the worthy leader of one of the most remarkable movements which this war, in many respects memorable, has produced. I cannot, however, refrain from stating one or two facts creditable to the soldiers of the British army which ought to be known. Miss Nightingale had of course occasion to be in the hospital wards at all hours, and she informed me that she never heard even an oath from a soldier. [Applause.] And, lest you should imagine this propriety of behavior pro-ceeded from deference and respect to her personally, I will read a very short extract from a letter written by a lady who was in another hospital. She says: 'In bearing testimony, as I do most gratefully, to the extreme de-licacy and respect with which I was in every instance treated by our soldiers, I am but echoing the sentiments of every lady who has been in the Eastern hospitals.' whather she had observed

> on the part of the soldiers much reluctance to leave the hospital and return to their duty in the Crimea, Miss Nightingale replied that she did not remember having been asked to write one letter for any soldier with a view to prolong his stay in hospital, but she believed she had written five or six hundred for men who wished to inform their officers that they considered themselves fit for duty. Such is the character which the soldiers of the army of the East have established for themselves in action, in camp during the worst times, and in hospital. I am confident that they will not throw away at home the high reputation they acquired on foreign service. [Applause.] Every one knows the public services of Florence Nightingale, but those only who have had the honor of meeting her can know the refinement and truly feminine delicacy of her mind and manners, or the unconsciousness of having done any thing great or remarkable that pervades her whole deportment and conver-

Far from dwelling upon the past or taking any pride in the applause which has followed her unsought, the whole energies of her pewerful, highly-cultivated, and essentially practical intellect are already directed toward France," gives the area of France, in hecfurther and more permanent plans of usefulness. Truly pious and thoroughly Protestant in her sentiments, her attachment to the Church of England is free from any tincthe other; the protection of the particular interest he directly represents. For example: the State of New York read her Bible as to believe that it inculcates ill-will toward any class of God's creatures. Ready to extend her assistance to the sick and wounded of all persuasions without distinction, she has freely availed herself of the assistance of all.

"Holding fast her own principles with a firm compo sure of a strong mind and a settled conviction, she avoids salt used by them for the benefit of a few thousand capi- alike the extremes of High Church and Low Church, and hears without resentment the extravagant and contra-dictory absurdities that are circulated in regard to her opinions. She appears to be too intent upon doing the good which it may be permitted her to do in the walk she has chosen to care for either the evil or the good that is This spoken of her-otherwise than as it may affect her useful ness. It is not from us, and it is not here, that she seeks praise or reward. But I should be acting little in accordance with her practice if, in speaking of the services rendered to our sick and wounded, I omitted to direct nd you that some of the most prominent were our

"Miss Shaw Stewart had charge of the nurses in the general hospital at Balaklava; Mrs. Mackenzi, e and after her Miss Erskine, in the naval hospital at Therapia—the men of our generation, the late Dr. Chalmers, [loud cheers;] the third daughter of the accomplished historian of the Mahomedan conquest of India, and grand-daughter of the late Sir James Mackintosh. And there daughter of the late Sir James Mackintosh. And there were other Scottish ladies in less prominent positions. Our country, therefore, was worthily represented in the hospitals of the East. [Cheers.] Let us hope that the moral and material improvements, the higher standard of feeling and of comfort which the wise benevolence and patriotism of Miss Nightingale and the ladies who aided her efforts have introduced into our military hospitals. tals will not be permitted to pass away with the oc-

"While we can obtain advice and assistance from the calm practical intellect of Florence Nightingale, thoroughly trained and instructed from her childhood in the duties to which, actuated by a spontaneous impulse, she has devoted her life, and now matured by experience such as perhaps no other person has acquired, let us hope that the nation may be enabled to reap the full benefit of her enlightened judgment and great capacity in that department in which she has in this country and

On Friday Miss Florence Nightingale, accompanied by Lord Panmure, paid a visit to Woolwich, and was re- or fifteen different species of beeves." This criticism is face to face with all England; that every Englishman make any large reduction, would be both an unwise and ceived by Sir F. Williams, commandant of the garrison, who proceeded with the distinguished party to the Royal Artillery Hospital, which they minutely inspected. Miss your correspondent gives from that excellent authority, ralty—why net, as a further perpetuation of the memory inspected several of the Royal Artillery who had been under her care as patients in hospitals at added together, demonstrate the perfect accuracy of the next English ship launched the Hartstene? Lengthen of the Government, grown into national importance. I the East, and conversed with them. The visit was unsubmit that wise and prudent legislation requires that all extreme or violent reduction of duties upon importance. In this suggestion Punch has done extreme or violent reduction of duties upon imports in competition with articles of our own growth or manufacture was Florence Nightingale.-London paper.

REPORT ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

Messrs. Epirons: Although the article in your journal of Saturday bears such evident marks of personal spite as entirely to defeat its object in throwing discredit on the report on the commercial relations recently issued from the Department of State, still it should not be permitted to pass altogether unnoticed by those who have examined and commended the work, among whom, from the repeated favorable notices in your columns, have seemed to be yourselves. Indeed, it is quite clear that your correspondent is not as complimentary as he might be to the Intelligencer, in which paper he found the very statements criticised: selected, too, out of all others in the volume, and published as "valuable" and "instruchas been approvingly copied.

To expect that a quarto volume of 850 pages, embracthousand tabular statements, derived from more than a thousand tabular statements, derived from more than a thousand tabular statements, derived from more than a thousand tabular statements, derived from more than a copital painter, but, in a point of the tist as an honest, blunt man, a capital painter, but, in a few of his Spanish pictures, had committed the error of this in my quiet little library, and I have been his guide introducing Scotch accessories. When in Madrid they sympathy of sentiment." In a note on this passage free from errors, is simply absurd. But when, in additional transfer of the whole world, should be sympathy of sentiment." In a note on this passage there from errors, is simply absurd. But when, in additional transfer of the whole world, should be sympathy of sentiment. In a capital painter, but, in a company, I have had a long talk with him also in company, I have had a long talk with him also in company, I have had a long talk with him also in company. I have had a long talk with few of his Spanish pictures, had committed the error of introducing Scotch accessories. When in Madrid they sympathy of sentiment, and the assigns as a reason to the company. I have had a long talk with him also in company, I have had a long talk with him also in company. I have had a long talk with him also in company to treat ments. tion to all this, it is considered that this heavy quarto, found that there were in France at least five millions of he once wrote to a friend a personal letter about Sir women, I turned to him and said, 'There, Wilkie, there's letter, only one-fourth part of the entire work, and that all this was prepared for the press in little more than one shout four millions of families had each less than nine year, and chiefly by two gentlemen-the superintendent of the report and his assistant-we should rather be amazed at their unexampled industry than disposed ungenerously and unfairly to criticise the result. Indeed, the statement of the superintendent of the work in submitting it to the public should certainly disarm all hypercriticism :

"In a work so comprehensive and so complicated," he says, "some errors have doubtless occurred; but could it I merely desire to prove that such is the law as it now have been committed to an organized and practised bu- sists. the State Department was not created until long after this report had been transmitted to Congress,] promptly supplied by consular agents with all requisite materials from abroad, or were a similar report now demanded from the persons who have been employed on the one herewith or after that period, would by no means do so in 1857. presented, fewer errors would unquestionably be detect- Of this fact your correspondent most unfairly avails ed; the execution of the work being, at the same time attended with less labor and expense

And again he save . "To one familiar with commercial statistics it is un necessary to suggest that in a work so comprehensive as the present, involving facts and figures almost without ber, derived from authorities numerous and often conflicting, in various languages, errors, notwithstanding the most unsleeping vigilance and the most toilsome scrutiny, are unavoidable.

Such are the unassuming terms with which the gentle man under whose supervision this volume was prepared submits it to the public. The language of the able Superintendent of the last Census, who has been subjected to similar abuse, in sending out his work to the world, so clearly expresses the difficulties inseparable from the preparation of statistical works that I shall be pardoned for laving it before you:

"I have labored assiduously night and day, denying ing out in the shortest time, at the least expense, and in the most reliable and satisfactory manner, from multituthe country might not be ashamed. I am not hardy suppose that errors have been avoided, for that would be to infer a more than human agency at work in the arrangement of ten or fifteen millions of figures, collected and combined into tables, by the labors of so many different persons, during several years, the but there can be no doubt that, what with the late was thousandth part of which it was not possible for me personally to examine. I can say, however, that every agency has been set at work to guard against or detect thes errors: and that he who will assert, whatever his experience, that, under the same circumstances, he could have done materially better, has only to undertake the charge of an office of the kind for a couple of weeks, with computer and copyist ever at his elbow, suggesting diffi-

From the criticism of your correspondent one would suppose that the subjects of agriculture, population, pauperism, education, and finance in France were discussed at length in the report; that they entered vitally into its substance and occupied considerable space; whereas they continued only imagine that one of plants of the could hope to do that would be new was to weave pany for the period of thirty-seven years. There was into his narrative what incidents he could obtain of a purple only imagine that one of plants of the could hope to do that would be new was to weave into his narrative what incidents he could obtain of a purple of Governor of the Territory for the number of the pany for the period of thirty-seven years. There was no fixed seat of government, but there was a seat of council. His authority extended over the whole of the company's territory to the number of the territory for the number of the could hope to do that would be new was to weave into his narrative what incidents he could hope to do that would be new was to weave pany for the period of thirty-seven years. There was no fixed seat of government, but there was a seat of council. His authority extended over the whole of the council of the council of the could hope to do that would be new was to weave pany for the period of thirty-seven years. substance and occupied considerable space; whereas they are only introduced collaterally, and in a few brief general sentences, occupying less than a page. The surprise may, peralventure, on this subject find repose. expressed by him, however, that the subject of the internal condition of France should be at all referred to in considering her commercial relations with the United be well conent to err with such men as Macgregor, Mc-States might, one would suppose, have been quieted by Colloch, Malte Brun, Daniel Webster, and Edward Evera glance at the remarks by which that subject is intro- ett, than to be right even with so illustrious a personage ment of State, he said he had found very little in them duced into the report, which are as follows:

pend upon a variety of facts. * * * The facts bearing upon the subject in the United States are to be found in its history and its census, and are familiar to all turnalists, may very amply compensate them for the formal in its history and its census, and are familiar to all turnalists, may very amply compensate them for the formal in its history and its census, and are familiar to all turnalists, may very amply compensate them for the formal interview with Mr. Custis, he was not disappointed. The name and character of Washington Mount Vernon he was already familiar with, and, counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not disappointed. The name and character of Washington Mount Vernon he was already familiar with, and, counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not disappointed. The name and character of Washington Mount Vernon he was already familiar with, and, counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not disappointed. The name and character of Washington Mount Vernon he was already familiar with, and counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not disappointed. The name and character of Washington Mount Vernon he was already familiar with, and counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the second of the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an interview with Mr. Custis, he was not constructed by the counting much upon an in med up in a suggestive rather than an elaborate form. who declares that the report has not "one redeeming France proper, to which alone reference is now had, lies trait in style or arrangement," though he makes the lubetween," &c.

general statement in the report that "one-half of France page 132, "the only portion of the book I have exis cultivable," [arable;] and, despite all his sophistry, it must be conceded that the assertion is about as nearly exact as can be arrived at.

Macgregor, in his "Recapitulation of the Official Returns of the Physical and Agricultural Surface of

tares..... Arable lands, hectares......25,559,151

Deducting arable lands, we have, hectares... 26,249,221 which is as nearly the half of 52,760,296 as could well be expected in a general statement introduced "in a uggestive rather than an elaborate form."

adult population of France from 1841 to 1851 increased venom, indeed-in behalf of American fame, himself nearly 2,000,000," and that a like increase would make prove after all-not an American! it in 1855 "fully 37,000,000." This assertion I find. upon a careful estimate based upon official figures, so correct, considering that "nearly 2,000,000" means less they have become a little passé since they first indicate a soul or two more, that your correspondent's remarks seem to me unworthy of further notice.

The same is true of his remark upon the expression, working classes or paupers, 6,585,000"-an expression undoubtedly copied from the authority relied on would comprehend as meaning the working classes and indigent persons. French official returns now before me, in a minute classification, designed for a specific purpose, not for a "general sta ement," thus distribute these two classes:

Operatives, or mere laborers..... Your correspondent must surely have been "hard push-

ed" indeed to clutch at a trifle like this. The point of your correspondent's remarks on the subject of education in France cannot be extracted from that American dock. Every blow of the shipwright's his chaos of stilted sentences and learned quotations, and hammer struck a note of lasting peace between the two need not, therefore, be noticed further.

"The curious statement" in the report respecting cattle also stated, that in "a few departments may be found es- timbers of the Resolute would float for many a day. tates of two hundred acres;" while "the greater portion of Sure are we that they will float with a still enduring the farms are now less than twenty acres." In regard to strength, none the worse, but all the better for the bit of the former statement Macgregor (parts 1, 2, 3, 4, p. 154) timber grown on the soil of America that may be here states, on the authority of French official reports publish- and there found in her English carcase. Sweet and esed in 1841, that with a population of 31,815,000 France pecially fragrant the pitch that newly caulked her-pitch possessed 9,130,000 head of cattle, consisting of bulls, tapped from American pines. oxen, cows, and calves, which the text comprises under | Capt. Hartstene has departed, and is now on the Atappear to certain optics) may be seen on page 197, vol.

VIII. of Malte Brun, who also states on the following page that "sufficient attention has not been paid to the rearing of sheep in France." As respects the division and subdivision of estates, the fact is so old, so universally known, especially to every school-boy who has read the speeches of Daniel Webster, that, notwithstanding the 'thousands of acres" which your correspondent says

"certainly exist" somewhere, the accuracy of the statement in the text cannot be impugned. "In some departments," says McCulloch, "the process of division and subdivision has not been carried so far as in others; but, generally, if a property exceed 100 or 200 acres, and in many instances if it exceed 80, it is divided and a portion are aware, the lion of the Metropolis for more than a deeply interesting. Thackeray had quite as great talents week, and it has been my rare good fortune to see much as Dickens; but Dickens was genial and warm, and

Alluding to the law by which the subdivisions of landed ed estates is effected in France, Mr. Webster, as far back as 1820, remarked that "if the Government do not is the guest of his friend, Mr. John P. Kennedy. My large and he is the guest of his friend, Mr. John P. Kennedy. My large and he is the guest of his friend, Mr. John P. Kennedy. My large and he was reminded of Wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. He knew the particular to the law by which the subdivisions of landed and he was reminded of wilkie. Alluding to the law by which the subdivisions of landchange the law, the law in half a century will change official position in the Department has made it my the Government;" and he assigns as a reason for this duty to treat him with attention there. I have met souls, who were proprietary families; and that of these English acres to the family on the average."

It is neither for the instruction nor the amusement o your correspondent that I enter into these details. Were such my object, his blundering perversion of facts and total misconception of the simplest truths would seem to indicate the hopelessness of success. The report briefly adverted to the law of France respecting real estate, and

As respects the revenue of France, it is notorious that it has greatly augmented within a few years, and hence the figures which might faithfully represent it in 1851, or give an aggregate average for a series of years before himself, not only as regards the revenues, but in respect of the products of domestic industry; and yet no attempt at exact statements, even for past years, is required in the report. The statement is general only, and for purposes of incidental comparison, year with year, on an average.

The error of your correspondent as regards the finances of France is this: He insists that this voluminous report shall, like a newspaper, give the financial intelligence of vesterday. Now, it is more than a year since this great work was transmitted to Congress; and more than a year before that event probably was this, the earliest portion of the four quarto volumes, prepared. What folly, then, to demand figures strictly applicable to the statistics of any country, and especially of a country like France in 1857, from a work prepared in 1854! Consider the statistics of our own country; consider, for example, the imports and exports of the United States. neither labor nor pains, with the single purpose of work- In 1852 the imports exceeded the exports (bullion exclusive) by upwards of \$40,000,000, while in 1856 the dinous and often confused materials, a document of which exports exceeded the imports by about \$15,000,000, making a difference of upwards of \$55,000,000 in only four years, although the imports in 1856 exceeded the imports in 1852 by more than \$100,000,000! I have not official authorities at hand to verify the assertion and the present enormous expenditures of the Empire, which are thought to menace even bankruptcy itself, the floating debt of France has vastly augmented of late, as well as the amount of the annual revenue extorted from the French people by extraordinary taxes. As for the debt, however, when "X." will inform your readers by culties or doubts, and printer clamorous for copy and for how much the floating debt of France in 1851 exceeded proof, to make early and generous recantations of the | "\$100,000,000" it may be worth while to notice his pointless criticism. As for the consolidated debt, every one knows that it would be only necessary to add a cione knows that it would be only necessary to add a cipher to \$100,000,000 to arrive at pretty nearly the truth.

He ought to have commenced it forty years ago. All the rest Sir George Simpson. He said he held the post of Governor of the Territory for the Hudson's Bay Com-

as your correspondent; while the favorable opinion of "The prospects of future commerce with France de- such men as Hunt, De Bow, Phelps, Wetmore, and a

> Now, Freeman Hunt examined the entire volume, and vidently with much care, and what says he? "It is the best arranged document that has ever ema-

tated from the Departments; indeed, it is superior i toint of arrangement to Macgregor's celebrated work." Whose opinion is the most valuable? The motive for an assault so unjust, so invidious, is not easy to divine. It may not prove amiss, however, at a venture to intimate that, of all the ministerial officers in the Executive Departments of the Government, there is probably none mere laborious, more less a sinecure, and none, therefore, less desirable to an office-hunter than that of Superintendent of Statistics of the Department of State. Af the same time would it not be "surious," very cu-Your critic next pounces upon the assertion that the rious, should a writer who manifests such zeal-such

> "PUNCH's" genial reflections on the restoration of the ship Resolute we must not omit, although reached us:

"THE RESOLUTE."-Well, we have been invaded by Jonathan, and all of us Englishers taken prisoners. Capt. Hartstene and his jovial, gallant crew have carried away the best part of the Britishers-their hearts. We for the fact, and which every person not quite an idiot have struck to the generosity of the stars and stripes, and only pant with a feeling to avenge ourselves by the best and greatest act of gratitude that destiny may yet have in store for us. The Resolute, a waif and stray amidst mountainous icebergs, rubbed and barked, and a little, and not a little nipped, was picked up by Ameridocked in an American dock, to be returned by son Jonathan to daddy John, as spick and span as when she first turned her bows from her English home for Arctic seas. There was fine music going on whilst the Resolute lay in countries.

Capt. HARTSTENE, in his manly, sailor-like speech n France is strictly correct; and no less so is the fact, with the smack of a true salt in it, hoped that the old

the general and comprehensive designation of "fourteen fantic. Our regret is that he could not have been brought simply ridiculous when it is considered that the 10,000,- could have had a grip of his sailor-hand. This was not 000 "des bestiaux" and the 2,000,000 "des baufs" which to be, but-we give the hint to the Lords of the Admi-London Punch.

A DAY WITH WASHINGTON IRVING.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 6, 1857. To the Editors of the National Intelligencer.

The enclosed letter, written by our mutual friend. Mr L., will tell its own interesting story. Though of a private character, it touches upon nothing that a man of Mr. Inving's fame could reasonably find fault with ; and. as it cannot but gratify a large number of your readers, I do not see any impropriety in making it public.

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 20, 1853. My DEAR SIR: Washington Irving has been, as you

of him. He came here for the purpose of examining the Walter Scott would seem to sanction my recording for your gratification, and according to my promise, a few your gratingation, and according to my promise, a few tumey, too costumey.' The fact was he delighted more paragraphs bearing upon his own private habits and in the rich brown of old rags than he did in the bright opinions. The title of his essay was "Abbotsford," and the subject of mine shall be "A Day with Washington Irving," for I propose to confine myself in this letter to what I obtained while on our visit to Arlington.

Hardly had our carriage ceased rattling over the stony streets and reached the Long Bridge across the Potomac before his conversation became so interesting that I involuntarily seized my note book. At this professional movement he smiled, and, as he did not demur, I proceeded to question him in regard to his literary career and other kindred matters, the substance of his replies being as follows:

William Jerdan, of the London Literary Gazette, was one of his earliest and best friends. He was the first to he apologised by saying that he frequently forgot himself, while alluding to his habits, he remarked that a quiet, and if you will pardon my egotism I will here fix the fact, that the first and several of the most friendly rewithout ever rising from his chair. He also avowed himviews ever published in England of my own poor pro-ductions were written by the same distinguished critic. At the time alluded to Mr. Irving was afloat in the world, and depended upon his pen for a living. After several of the essays had appeared in the Gazette, the editor recommended that the whole collection should be printed in a book, and this, after some delay, was accomplished. The book was offered to John Murray, but was declined. Walter Scott recommended it to Archibald Constable, of Edinburgh, and he was ready to take it, but in the mean time Mr. Irving had it published upon his own venture. That effort proved a failure, but the work was subsequently successful with the imprint upon it of John

On questioning Mr. Irving in regard to Knickerbocker's History of New York, he told me that it had cost him more hard work than any other of his productions, though he considered it decidedly the most original. He was often greatly perplexed to fix the boundary between the purely historical and the imaginative. The facts of history had given him great trouble.

As to his "Life of Washington," which has been so long expected by the public, and which was announced contrary to his wishes, and had given him great annoyance, he said he hardly believed he would ever send it to press. He loved the subject, and thought first of writing such a work twenty years ago. But so many able men had written upon it he did not believe he could say any thing new. Many people had said he ought to write it, but why should he? Ten years ago he had the work all written, in chapters, to the inauguration of Washington as President, and he could finish it now in a few days. But he did not like it; it did not suit him, and he people thought it very foolish for him to be writing any On the vhole, then, every one will agree, I think, that old, but the subject was intensely interesting to him, and With regard to the Washington Papers in the Depart-

worth printing which had not already been published. Mr. Irving's main object in visiting Arlington was t gather items of personal information about Washington. he seems to love and admire with intensity; he looks upon him as a special gift from God to this country, and have not heard our great author speak of our great dicrous acknowledgment that he opened the volume at General without emotion. He says that every American should be proud of the memory of Washington, and should make his example and his wonderful character a con-

tinual study.

Our mutual friend of Arlington House, with his wife, received Mr. Irving with every manifestation of regard, and after the true, open-handed, and open-hearted Vir-ginia fashion. The pictures, the books, and the furniture relies from Mount Vernon were all exhibited, and it seemed to me that Mr. Custis was particularly happy in expressing his "recollections of the chief, you all remember is a pet phrase with our friend. But Mr. Irving had himself seen General Washington. He said there was some celebration going on in New York, and the General was there to participate in the ceremony. "My nurse," continued Mr. Irving, "a good old Scotchwoman, was very anxious for me to see and held me up in her arms as he rode past. This, however, did not satisfy her; so the next day, when walking with me in Broadway, she espied him in a shop; she seized my hand, and darting in exclaimed in her bland Scotch: 'Please, your excellency, here's a bairn that's called after ye!' Gen. Washington then turned his benevolent face full upon me, smiled, laid his hand upon my head, and gave me his blessing, which," added Mr. Irving earnestly, 'I have reason to believe has attended me through life. I was but five years old, yet I can feel that hand upon my head even now!"

Of all the pleasant reminiscences which Mr. Irving brought from Arlington House, the most agreeable was that he had noticed a striking resemblance between Mrs. Custis and his own mother. The latter had been dead for nearly forty years, and he had been a very extensive traveller, but he had never seen a face towards which can hands, carried into an American port, and forthwith his conversation it was apparent that his admiration for docked in an American dock to be returned by son Jonatired of looking at them. It had always been his custom, when travelling over the world, to take particular notice of the women whom he met, (especially if they were beautiful,) and amuse himself by composing stories, purely imaginary of course, in which they conspicuously

figured.
When questioned as to his manner of writing, Mr. Irving gave me the following particulars: He usually wrote with great rapidity. Some of the most popular passages in his books were written with the utmost ease, and the more uninteresting ones were those which had cost him the most trouble. At one time he had to labor very hard to bring up one part of an essay to the level of another. He never allowed a thing to go to press, however, without writing it or overlooking it a second time; he was always careful about that. Several of the papers in the Sketch Book were written before break-fast, one he remembered especially—"the Wife." At one time, when in England, Thomas Moore called upon him when deeply engaged in writing a story, and, as the poet saw page after page of Mr. Irving's manuscript thrown aside, he stepped quietly into the room and did not speak a word until the task was ended, when he said not speak a word until the task was ended, when he said it would have been a pity to disturb a man under such circumstances. The first things he ever printed were school compositions, which he was in the habit of sending to the "Weekly Museum," a little quarto journal published in New York, when he was a boy twelve or fourteen years old. Many papers that he sent to the printer were rejected, but those assaults upon his pride did not make him unhappy. At no period of his life had

. The first volume of the Life of Washington was published

he ever attempted to make a grand sentence his chief object had been to utter his thoughts in the ewest pessible words, as simple and plain as language would allow. The only poetry he had ever attempted was a piece entitled "Lines to the Passaio." These verses were written in an album for the amusement of a party of ladies and gentlemen to the Falls, which he had joined.

ladies and gentlemen to the Falls, which he had joined. He said they ought never to have been printed, for, in his opinion, they were very poor, very poor stuff.

He touched upon literary men generally, and a bit of criticism on Thackeray seemed to me full of meaning. He liked him as a lecturer and a man, and his books were capital. Of his novels he liked Pendennis most; Vanity Fair was full of talent, but many passages hurt his Calibrate Penand has thought a guear effair, but his feelings; Esmond he thought a queer affair, but that suited him.

of his being in Spain, and went all the way to Madrid to spend a couple of months or more. He spoke of the artist as an honest, blunt man, a capital painter, but, in a something very fine! He looked attentively for a mo-ment, and, shaking his head, hastily replied, 'too coscolors of new lace and new cloth."

Speaking to Mr. Irving of a headache with which I was suffering, he remarked that was a thing which he had never experienced. Indeed, he thought that no man had ever lived so long a life as he had with fewer aches and pains. He mentioned the singular fact that for a period of twenty years, from 1822 to 1842, he had not been conof twenty years, from 1822 to 1842, he had not been con-scious of the least bodily suffering. A good dinner was a thing he had always enjoyed, but he liked it plain and well-cooked. In early life he was very fond of walking, but, owing to a cutaneous affection which came upon him when in Spain, his ankles were somewhat weakened, and he had since that time taken the most of his exercise on horseback. This last remark was made in reply to the surprise which Mr. Custis expressed at seeing him up a flight of stairs three steps at a time, and for which not sleep well at night; he frequently spent more than half the night wakeful, and at such times he was in the habit of reading a great deal. He said that he really envied the man who could sleep soundly.

I had a short talk with Mr. Irving about the copy-right treaty which was drawn up by Messrs. Webster and Crampton, and is now in the hands of Mr. Everett. He did not believe it would be ratified by the Senate, and spoke in rather severe terms of the want of intelligence, on purely literary matters, of that distinguished body, and also of the conduct of certain publishers who are doing all they can to prevent the ratification of the

An incident related by Mr. Irving, going to illustrate the character of Andrew Jackson, was to this effect : "When Secretary of Legation at St. James in 1821 he was left by Mr. McLane to represent the country in the capacity of Charge d'Affaires for a period of three months. During that time the coronation of William the Fourth took place, and his expenses were unusually heavy. When he came home he presented a claim for £100, which was a smaller sum than he had expended. The President said there was no law providing for such claims, but ordered that he should receive the pay of a Charge for the time employed. And he did receive -a sum amounting to more than twice what had been pray

But enough. Though not afraid to tire you with pleasant reminiscences of a man universally honored and beloved, yet my selfishness and modesty prompt me to reserve a portion of my notes of Mr. Irving's conversation or my special gratification. A few of his statements bearing upon the truth of history I may give you on some Yours, very truly, CHARLES LANMAN. future occasion.

PETER FORCE, Esq., Washington.

THE HUDSON'S BAY GOVERNMENT

people thought it very foolish for him to be writing any book at his time of life, now that he was seventy years questions as were brought before them. The council could outvote the Governor, but it had never The present population of the Red ever territor was about 8,000. The settlement had been established over forty years. There was much difference of climat beween Minnesota and the Red river settlement. In reply to questions by different members, the withes

proceeded to state that the Indian settlement of he ha

river was approved of and encouraged by the column. In the company's territory there were nineteen mix-ary stations of the Established Church, twelve of Roll Catholics, four of Wesleyans, and one of Presbyteris There was also a Roman Catholic mission on the 5 Lawrence, another at Albany, and another at Fort William. The company paid the Roman Catholic Bishop of Rupert's Land a salary of three hundred pounds; they also give him £100 a year in aid of schools, besides stipends to chaplains at different stations. With regard to the executive power of the company's territory, it comprised one governor and a council of sixteen chief factors. In the Red river settlement the recorder was governor of the district : he had executive power as well as judicial. The rest of the territory was governed by the witness himself. The tenure of land was by lease for 999 years. The directors in London had no legislative power as regarded their territory, but they had the supervision of acts. If a person wished to go out and settle in the territory he could get land at 5 shillings an acre, payable to the company, and would have to pay no other charge. The company's servants going out from Englandwere engaged for only five years; but six out of eight of them remain for twenty or thirty years, and many of them become settlers and remain for life. The pay of a laborer going out from England used to be £17, was now £20 a year. From being common laborers many of them become boatmen and fishermen, and get from £30 to £40 a year. The sixteen chief factors were partners in the trade of the company. The laws under which the settlement of the Red river was governed were printed; the new laws were posted on the church doors; they had no newspaper in the country. He believed the settlers would be perfectly satisfied with the existing state of things in the settlement but for agitators, who nad an eye to the trade. The agitators come from without, not from within the settlement. The average time between goods bought by the company in London and delivered in some parts of the settlement was as long as seven years; the minimum would be between three and four years; that is, he meant the period clapsing be-tween the goods being sent from England and the time when the directors in London received the money for traveller, but he had never seen a face towards which his heart seemed to yearn so strongly. I noticed the fact that he could hardly keep his eyes off of her, and he thought proper to apologize for his apparent rudeness by alluding to the emotions which her presence excited in his breast. He subsequently accounted to me for the resemblance by analyzing the peculiar expression of the eyes, 'caused by unusually long eyelashes, all of which seemed to be confirmed, in my opinion, by the dreamy expression of his own eyes. From the tone of his conversation it was apparent that his admiration fer ment ment.

WHAT WE DRINK .- It appears from the report of Secretary Guthrie, of the Treasury Department, that dur-ing the year ending June 30, 1856, 8,843,370 gallons of wine, spirits, and malt liquor have been imported into this country. The total value of these drinkables is \$6,176,939—a snug liquor bill for Uncle Sam to foot up. Brandy, we regret to say, forms the largest item in the bill; 1,715,717 gallons have been consumed, at a cost of nearly \$3,000,000. The grain spirits imported fall a little below brandy in quantity, (1,582,132 gallons,) but much below in value, (\$772,276.) Nearly a million of "other spirits" besides are consumed, at an expense of \$288,000. On the other hand, we are glad to see that claret and other wines flow in a wholesome stream, thus indicating a growing inclination for continental beverages and continental temperance. Over a million and a half gallons of claret and nearly 700,000 gallons of other red wines were imported, at an average cost of about \$850,000. We have drank also 1,100,000 gallons of English and Scotch ale, which is another encouraging symptom as showing a growing appetite for malt liq in preference to pernicious spirits. The importation Maderia, Port, and Sicily wines have fallen of: the The importations of ply of sherry, however, has increased from 4,685 gallons in 1843 to 400,000 gallons in 1856. The recent modifications in the tariff will undoubtedly increase Uncle Sam's consumption of imported drinkables. It is to be regretted, we think, that all duties on light wines, ale, &c. had not been removed.—New York Murror.

MINNEAPOLIS AND CEDAR RAILBOAD.—Gen. Shields has been elected President of the Minneapolis and Cedir Valley railroad company. The company is fully organged and stock to the amount of \$220,000 subscribed.